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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/680,524	10/06/2000	Joseph B. Rowlands	5580-00600	2296

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EXAMINER

HUYNH, KIM T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2189

9

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/680,524

Applicant(s)

ROWLANDS ET AL.

Examiner

Kim T. Huynh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-62 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6, 8, 9, 17-20, 22-25, 27-30, 33, 37-39, 42, 44, 45, 53-56 and 58-61 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 5, 7, 10-16, 21, 26, 31, 32, 34-36, 40, 41, 43, 46-52, 57 and 62 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 October 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

CLAIMS OBJECTION

1. Claims 4-5, 7, 10-16, 21, 26, 31-32, 34-36, 40-41, 43, 46-52, 57, 62 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-3, 6, 8-9, 17-20, 22-25, 27-30, 33, 37-39, 42, 44-45, 53-56, 58-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chen (US Patent 6,076,132)

As per claims 1, 37, Chen discloses a system comprising:

- a first agent configured to generate a first signal, wherein said first signal is indicative, in a first state, that said first agent is available to participate in subsequent transactions, and wherein said first signal is indicative, in a second state, that said first agent is unavailable to participate in subsequent transactions; and (col.6, line 39-col.7, line 15)

- a second agent coupled to receive said first signal, wherein said second agent is configured to initiate a first transaction for which said first agent is a participant responsive to said first signal being in said first state, and wherein said second agent is configured to initiate a second transaction for which said first agent is a non-participant responsive to said first signal being in said second state. (col.6, line 39-col.7, line 15)

As per claims 2, 38, Chen discloses wherein said second agent is configured to inhibit initiating said first transaction if said first signal is in said second state.

(col.6, line 39-col.7, line 15)

As per claims 3, 39, Chen discloses wherein said first agent is said participant in said first transaction if said first agent is targeted by said first transaction. (col.6, line 39-col.7, line 15)

As per claims 6, 42, Chen discloses wherein said second agent is configured to inhibit initiating said first transaction by preventing arbitration for a bus on which said first transaction is to be transmitted. (col.6, line 39-col.7, line 15)

As per claims 8, 44, Chen discloses wherein said first agent comprises a queue configured to store transactions until the transactions are acted upon by said first agent, and wherein said first agent is configured to generate said first signal responsive to number of free entries of said queue. (col.12, lines 1-59)

As per claims 9, 45, Chen discloses wherein said first agent is configured to generate said first signal in said second state responsive to 1 or fewer entries being free. (col.12, lines 1-59)

As per claims 17, 53, Chen discloses wherein said first transaction includes an address, and wherein said second agent is configured to determine if said first agent is a participant in said first transaction by decoding at least a portion of said address. (col.12, lines 1-59)

As per claims 18, 54, Chen discloses an agent comprising:

- a first storage location configured to store a transaction to be initiated by said agent; and (col.12, lines 1-59)
- a circuit coupled to said first storage location and coupled to receive a first signal indicative of whether or not a second agent is available to participate in transactions, and wherein said circuit is configured to selectively inhibit initiation of said transaction if said first signal indicates that said second agent is unavailable to participate in transactions, dependent on whether or not said second agent is a participant in said transaction. (col.6, line 39-col.7, line 15)

As per claims 19, 55, Chen discloses wherein said circuit is configured to inhibit initiating said transaction if said second agent is a participant in said transaction. (col.6, line 39-col.7, line 15)

As per claims 20, 56, Chen discloses wherein said circuit is configured to inhibit arbitration for a bus to initiate said transaction responsive to said first signal indicating that said second agent is unavailable to participate in transactions if said second agent is said participant in said transaction. (col.6, line 39-col.7, line 15)

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As per claims 22, 58, Chen discloses wherein said circuit is configured to determine that said second agent is said participant in said transaction by decoding at least a portion of an address of said transaction. (col.12, lines 1-59)

As per claims 23, 59, Chen discloses wherein said circuit is configured to initiate said transaction if said second agent is a non-participant in said transaction. (col.6, line 39-col.7, line 15)

As per claims 24, 60, Chen discloses wherein said circuit is configured to determine that said second agent is a non-participant in said transaction by decoding at a portion of an address of said transaction. (col.12, lines 1-59)

As per claims 25, 61, Chen discloses the agent further comprising a queue including said first storage location, wherein said queue is configured to store a plurality of transactions to be initiated by said agent. (col.12, lines 1-59)

As per claim 27, Chen discloses a method comprising:

- receiving a first signal indicative of whether or not a first agent is available to participate in subsequent transactions; and (col.6, line 39-col.7, 15)
- selectively inhibiting initiation of a transaction if said first signal indicates that said first agent is unable to participate in subsequent transactions, dependent on whether or not said first agent is a participant in said transaction. (col.6, line 39-col.7, line 15)

As per claim 28, Chen discloses wherein said selectively inhibiting comprises:

- inhibiting initiation of said transaction if said first agent is a participant in said transaction; and (col.6, line 39-col.7, line 15)

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- initiating said transaction if said first agent is a non-participant in said transaction. (col.6, line 39-col.7, line 15)

As per claim 29, Chen discloses the method further comprising determining if said first agent is said participant in said transaction by decoding an address of said transaction. (col.6, line 39-col.7, line 15)

As per claim 30, Chen discloses wherein said first agent is said participant in said transaction if said first agent is targeted by said transaction. (col.6, line 39-col.7, line 15)

As per claim 33, Chen discloses wherein said inhibiting comprises inhibiting arbitration for a bus on which said transaction is to be initiated. (col.6, line 39-col.7, line 15)

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed on 6/05/03 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. *A shortened statutory period for reply is set to expire THREE months from the mailing date of this communication. Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) months from the mailing date of this communication. If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) months from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C 133).*

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Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

6. *Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim Huynh whose telephone number is (703)305-5384 or via e-mail addressed to [kim.huynh3@uspto.gov]. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM- 6:30PM.*

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on (703) 305-4815 or via e-mail addressed to [mark.rinehart@uspto.gov]. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)746-7249 for regular communications and (703)746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)306-5631.

Kim Huynh

August 23, 2003



MARK H. RINEHART
SUPERVISOR
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100